United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/773
21 November 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly begins debate on critical economic situation in Africa.

- Assembly's Special Political Committee takes up report on Israeli practices affecting human rights of Palestinians and other Arabs in occupied territories.

- President of Afghanistan briefs correspondents at United Nations Office at Geneva on latest developments in search for a negotiated solution to the conflict in his country.

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The General Assembly today took up the question of the critical economic situation in Africa and examined the report of the Secretary-General's Expert Group on African Commodity Problems.

The Assembly had three draft resolutions -- one calling for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to prepare a final review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development and propose measures for sustained growth and development in Africa beyond 1991; another requesting a follow-up report on measures to implement the recommendations of the Expert Group; and the third asking the Assembly to commend the collective commitment of African Governments to promote economic recovery and development through popular participation.

For the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Perezi K. Kamunanwire of Uganda, introducing the drafts, said it was imperative that African countries design policies for diversification away from commodity dependence at national, subregional and regional levels. The international community must support the establishment of a commodities diversification fund.

He said the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development was a reminder that few political systems were born fully formed. "It would be wrong to get too excited about the existing and recent systems of democracy as

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if they were the beginning and the end of the world", he said. Every system must be allowed to evolve in the context of its history, culture and domestic conditions.

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Speakers in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee this morning called for urgent measures to protect the human rights of the population of the occupied Arab territories. The Committee was beginning its consideration of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Daya Perera (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, introduced the report which, he said, described a further escalation of tension in the territories and "an alarming trend towards the hardening of repression".

According to the report, Israel continued during the year-long period to institute new measures for riot control while international organizations grew increasingly concerned. The report conclude that "an indiscriminate use of violence" had led to a human rights situation so deteriorated that it was a serious threat to peace and stability.

Riyad Mansour, Observer for Palestine, said the Committee's reports gave a clear picture of reality in the occupied territories by revealing the intensified systematic State terrorism practised by Israel. Israel had stated its intention to hold the land from "the sea to the Jordan river" for the future, and thus considered any intervention by the United Nations as interference in its internal affairs.

Palestine had told the Security Council of its desire that a United Nations observer force be dispatched to the Palestinian territory and for a negotiated settlement. Palestine was ready to immediately implement United Nations resolutions and to participate in a peace process based on international legality.

In right of reply, Herzl Inbar of Israel said the picture of the situation in the territories had been deliberately slanted. Irrefutable evidence of Palestinian violence had been ignored. Such violence had been directed both at Jews and at fellow Arabs. Israel had released hundreds of detainees, opened universities and the banking system, he said. It was providing assistance to Kuwaitis stranded in the occupied territories. Israel had kept its borders open to protect Palestinians fleeing from Kuwait and Iraq.

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At a press conference today at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the President of Afghanistan, Najibullah, briefed correspondents on the latest developments in the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict in his country.

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He said the Government desired a political solution to the conflict in the country, adding that political pluralism and a free-market economy had been accepted. The powers of authority functioned in a democratic atmosphere, and freedom of speech and human rights had been guaranteed. He expressed the hope that the rapprochement between the super-Powers, in conjunction with United Nations efforts, would lead to a peaceful solution to the conflict.

He said that while in Geneva he had had satisfactory meetings with prominent opposition figures regarding their possible participation in the search for a settlement. A cornerstone had been laid for further talks and for the implementation of a peace plan.

Asked about the refugee situation, he said that in spite of Pakistan's "interference", 250,000 refugees had returned since the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The United Nations programme for mass return of refugees provided for the repatriation of 300,000 persons in three months. According to United Nations sources, about 70,000 had returned under this programme, while 100,000 more had come back on their own.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/774
23 November 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council unanimously adopts annual report to General Assembly.

- United Nations relief and security assessment teams for Liberian refugees are re-established in Monrovia.

- Special Committee against Apartheid deplores findings of Commission of Inquiry on Activities of South African "death squads".

- Government of Kuwait donates $2 million to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme for children and women in Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco.

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In a meeting held in private, the Security Council today considered its draft report to the General Assembly covering the period from 16 June 1989 to 15 June 1990. The Security Council adopted the draft report unanimously.

Earlier today, a United Nations official said the Council had also discussed the draft resolution presented last Friday by four Council members -- Columbia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen -- proposing that military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) monitor the situation of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

* * *

United Nations relief and security assessment teams for displaced persons in Liberia, headed by the Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief operations, Michael Heyn, today moved back to Monrovia from Freetown, Sierra Leone, according to a situation report by the Geneva Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO).

The report said the security situation in Liberia remained precarious.

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The teams, including representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNDRO would now make local arrangements for reception and distribution of international relief assistance, which in its initial phase was targeted to meet the basic food, medical and sanitation needs of over 300,000 people in Monrovia.

The relief operations for Liberia were re-established 10 days ago, after some months of suspension when UNDRO officials sought refuge in Freetown, Sierra Leone, because of "appalling conditions" in the Liberian capital.

* * *

The Acting Chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid, Jai Pratap Rana (Nepal) said today the Committee deplored the findings and conclusions of the report of the Harms Commission of Inquiry, published in South Africa 10 days ago. Led by South African Supreme Court Judge Louis Harms, the Commission was to investigate the activities of State-controlled "death squads". According to the report, the Commission acknowledged that the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) of the South African Defence Forces had "arrogated to itself the powers to try, to sentence and to punish persons without the persons knowing of the allegations against them", and that it had put its own interests "above the public interest, or the interest of the State".

However, the Commission failed to recommend that any action be taken against CCB members or against the persons responsible for the activities of the Bureau. Moreover, only one out of 71 assassinations brought to the attention of the Commission was sent for investigation by the State Prosecutor.

In his statement, Mr. Rana said the Special Committee ascribed the Commission's findings partly to "its restrictive and limited terms of reference which prevented it from carrying out a thorough and comprehensive examination, in particular as regards political acts of violence committed outside South Africa".

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The Government of Kuwait has donated $2 million for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for programmes benefiting children and women in Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco.

UNICEF said in a press release issued at Headquarters on Tuesday that Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, had presented James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, with a check on behalf of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait.

The Sheikh was among the 72 Heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Children on 30 September who signed a Declaration and Plan of Action committing Governments to address the plight of the child world-wide.

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United Nations

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DH/775
26 November 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Kuwait requests "urgent" meeting of Security Council to resume consideration of situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Council to meet tomorrow and at Foreign Minister level on Thursday.

- Special Political Committee approves drafts on plight of Palestine refugees, peaceful uses of outer space.

- Economic and Financial Committee recommends to General Assembly inclusion of Liberia in list of least developed countries; debates work of United Nations University.

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The Permanent Representative of Kuwait, Mohammad A. Abulhasan, has requested that the Security Council meet "urgently" to resume the consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait".

The request was made today in a letter on behalf of the Kuwaiti Government to the Council President for the month of November, Ambassador Thomas Pickering of the United States.

A United Nations official said later that the Security Council was scheduled to meet tomorrow morning to see a presentation by Kuwait of "some videos and documents concerning the Iraqi occupation of Kuwaiti territory".

The official said the Council was scheduled to meet again on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait on Thursday, 29 November, at the Foreign Ministry level. The Council is also expected to meet on Friday, 30 November, concerning the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

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The General Assembly would hold Israel responsible for the security of Palestine refugees and call on that country to fulfil its obligations as the occupying Power in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Convention, under a draft

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resolution approved this morning by the Assembly's Special Political Committee.

The text, one of a series on the report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), was approved by a recorded vote of 120 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States), with no abstentions.

Another draft, approved by 121 votes in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States), with no abstentions, would have the Assembly strongly reiterate its demand that Israel desist from the removal and resettlement of Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory and from the destruction of their shelters.

By a similar vote, the Committee approved another text by which the General Assembly would request that the Secretary-General continue to take all necessary measures to establish the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" and call once more upon Israel to co-operate.

By a draft resolution on the protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions, the Assembly would condemn repeated Israeli raids on UNRWA installations and call upon Israel immediately to open all closed educational institutions and refrain from closing them thereafter. The vote was again 121 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States), with no abstentions.

In a text approved by 95 votes in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States) with 26 abstentions, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps for the protection and administration of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and establish a fund for the receipt of income derived therefrom on behalf of the rightful owners. Another resolution contained a strong appeal to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase special allocations for grants and scholarships to Palestinian refugees in addition to their regular contributions to UNRWA.

In a statement, the representative of the United States said his country strongly supported the vital humanitarian work of UNRWA, but regretted that many of the drafts were "highly politicized, containing sweeping, unbalanced criticism of Israel's treatment of refugees or make proposals that the United States considers financially unsound".

The representative of Israel said his country had supported the work of UNRWA through contributions to its various services. It was opposed to political exploitation of the Palestinian situation, and that was why it had voted against the resolutions. The observer for Palestine said the voting once again had shown Israel and the United States to be alone in their positions, for the rest of the international community had voted in favour of the resolutions.

In another action this morning, the Special Political Committee approved a draft on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, by

which the Assembly would call for establishment of an international space information service, regional training centres and fellowship programmes for university and post-graduates from developing countries.

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The General Assembly would include Liberia in the United Nations list of least developed countries, according to a draft decision taken without a vote this morning by the Assembly's Economic and Financial Committee.

Beginning its debate on training and research, the Committee also held a discussion on the United Nations University. It had before it a report of the University, which stated that more fellowships were being implemented under financial grants and partial support from Governments and foundations. As a result, there had been an increase in completed fellowships during 1989.

Introducing the report, Rector of the United Nations University, Heitor Gurgulino de Souza, said the construction of the University's headquarters by the Government of Japan was progressing satisfactorily and was expected to be completed by 1992.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/776
27 November 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Kuwait presents to Security Council testimony of atrocities it accuses Iraqi occupation forces of committing against Kuwaiti citizens; introduces draft resolution. Revised draft is circulated by Cuba on situation in occupied Palestinian territories.

- Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in Israel-Syria sector for another six months, until 31 May 1991.

- In report on United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), Secretary-General recommends Council extend Group's mandate for two more months, until 31 January 1991.

- General Assembly calls on all countries to further objectives of peace and co-operation of South Atlantic Zone. Fills vacancies on World Food Council, Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

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The Security Council today, in two meetings held in the morning and in the afternoon, debated the situation between Kuwait and Iraq.

This morning Kuwait presented to the Council testimony, live and videotaped, accusing Iraqi occupation forces of atrocities committed against Kuwaiti citizens.

Kuwaiti medical personnel described the plundering of medical supplies and hospital equipment, the appropriation of hospital facilities for use as barracks and the civilian casualties they had treated.

One doctor told of burying newborn infants who had died after being removed from incubators by soldiers. A dialysis patient told of being forced by soldiers to donate blood, and of having to lie next to a dead body in filthy conditions while receiving treatment in a hospital seized by Iraqi forces. Numerous gang rapes of women and girls were described, as well as incidents of murder and torture. The destruction of the economy was cited in

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terms of property stolen and destroyed, lost revenues and plundered gold reserves. Losses were estimated in the tens of billions of dollars.

The representative of Kuwait introduced a draft resolution, co-sponsored by Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland and Zaire, by which the Council would condemn Iraq's attempts to alter Kuwait's demographic composition, and entrust to the Secretary-General a certified copy of the country's population register as of the day before the invasion.

Also this morning, the representative of Cuba circulated a revised draft resolution on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, by which the Council would appoint a commissioner, or ombudsman, to monitor and observe the situation in those territories with the help of United Nations personnel stationed there. The text, sponsored also by Colombia, Malaysia and Yemen, would urge Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to all territories occupied since 1967, call on the Convention's high contracting parties to ensure Israel's respect for that instrument, and endorse the idea of a meeting of the high contracting parties to discuss measures that could be taken by them in that regard.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has recommended that the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) remain stationed in the Israel-Syria sector for another six months, until 31 May, 1991.

In a report to the Security Council dated 23 November, the Secretary-General said that despite the present quiet in the area under surveillance during the past six months, the Force's continued presence remained essential because the situation in the Middle East as a whole continued to be "potentially dangerous".

The Secretary-General said both Israel and Syria have agreed to the proposed extension.

* * *

The Secretary-General in a report to the Security Council on another peace-keeping force -- the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) -- has recommended that its mandate be extended for a further period of two months, until 31 January next year.

In the report, dated 23 November, the Secretary-General said that regarding the duration of the new mandate period there was a significant gap between the two months favoured by Iran and the six months favoured by Iraq. Iranian authorities had informed him, however, that they would not exclude the possibility of a further extension after 31 January, he stated.

With regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 598, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said that Iran and Iraq had agreed on 21 November to resume the repatriation of their prisoners of war.

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The Secretary-General said the fundamental positive change in the relations between Iran and Iraq had come at a time of new crisis for the region. The full implementation of the resolution, he said, could contribute to a "marked improvement" of the situation in the region as a whole. He would continue to stay in close contact with the Governments of Iran and Iraq in an effort to enhance security and stability in the region.

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The General Assembly this morning called on all countries to further the objectives of peace and co-operation established in the Declaration of a Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives.

The Assembly acted by adopting a resolution on the Declaration, by a recorded vote of 150 in favour to 1 against (United States) with 1 abstention (Japan).

By its action, the Assembly also welcomed the holding of the second meeting of the States of the Zone at Abuja, Nigeria last June. And it urged all States to abstain from the dumping of hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes into the region.

Most speakers had reservations about the restriction of the geographical area involved in the Zone. Objections were also voiced concerning the establishment of the Zone as a result of an Assembly resolution rather than issuing from multilateral negotiations among the relevant parties. Further concern was expressed that the establishment of such Zones should not violate existing international laws.

In addition, the Assembly this morning elected 12 members to the World Food Council (WFC) for three-year terms beginning 1 January 1991: Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Nepal, Turkey and the United States. Also, Yugoslavia was elected to the seat vacated by the former German Democratic Republic, whose term was due to expire on 31 December.

In another action this morning, 20 States were elected members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). Elected to three-year terms beginning 1 January 1991 were: Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

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United Nations

Press Release

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28 November 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Security Council acts unanimously to condemn attempts by Iraq to alter demographic composition of population of Kuwait and to destroy civil records maintained by that country's legitimate Government.

◆ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for a further period of two months, until 31 January.

◆ Secretary-General says prospects for peace in Arab-Israeli peace process appear to have stalled.

◆ Palestinian Rights Committee told of pending Arab Group action condemning United States' obstruction of General Assembly's work, and requesting postponement of Assembly debate on Palestine. Committee approves five drafts.

◆ Draft convention on rights of migrant workers is introduced in Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, which also approves drafts dealing with refugee and human rights question.

◆ Drafts on assistance for AIDS projects, eradication of poverty, development activities approved by Economic and Financial Committee.

◆** Trusteeship Council, at final meeting for 1990, adopts report to Security Council on Trust Territory of Pacific Islands.

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The Security Council today unanimously condemned the attempts by Iraq to alter the demographic composition of the population of Kuwait and to destroy the civil records maintained by the legitimate Government of Kuwait.

It took that action by adopting resolution 677 (1990), which mandated the Secretary-General to take custody of a copy of the population register of

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Kuwait, the authenticity of which had been certified by the legitimate Government of Kuwait and which covers the registration of population up to 1 August.

Sponsored by Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, Kuwait and Zaire, the resolution also requested the Secretary-General to establish, in co-operation with the legitimate Government of Kuwait, an Order of Rules and Regulations governing access to and use of the copy of the population register.

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In another action earlier this afternoon, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group for two more months, until the end of January.

It took that action by adopting resolution 676 (1990), by which it also requested the Secretary-General to submit, during January, a report on his further consultations with Iran and Iraq about the future of UNIIMOG, together with his recommendations on this matter.

In a report to the Council, dated 23 November, the Secretary-General said he would continue to be in close contact with both Governments in an effort to enhance security and stability in the region.

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The prospects for progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process appears regrettably to have stalled compared to heightened expectations as a result of dramatic political developments at the end of 1988, according to a report by the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East. At that time, he reports, those developments led to important proposals, aimed primarily at launching a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

The report, which does not deal with the present crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, says the situation in the occupied territories has recently worsened, causing the Security Council to focus increasingly on the question of safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians living there.

The Secretary-General points out that suggestions made in an earlier report on steps the international community might take regarding the protection of Palestinians, would not alone "bring an end to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians". He stressed his belief that a settlement of the Middle East situation, particularly a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, could best be achieved through a negotiating process involving all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

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The observer for Palestine informed the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People this morning that the Arab Group was considering a draft resolution that would have the General Assembly condemn the United States for obstructing its work by not issuing visas to the Chairman and two other members of the Palestine delegation.

The proposed draft resolution, he said, would also ask the Assembly to postpone its debate on the question of Palestine, scheduled to begin tomorrow afternoon.

Also this morning, the Committee approved five draft resolutions on the question of Palestine, for consideration by the Assembly.

Among the texts, one would have the Assembly endorse the Committee's recommendations and draw the Security Council's attention to the fact that action on the Committee's recommendations over the past 14 years was still awaited.

A draft, introduced by the observer for Palestine, which calls for an international peace conference on the Middle East, would also have the Assembly note the expressed desire and endeavours to place the occupied Palestinian territory under the supervision of the United Nations for a limited period, as part of the peace process.

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A new human rights treaty aimed at protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families would be opened for signature and ratification by the General Assembly under the terms of one of eight draft resolutions introduced this morning in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

The draft treaty, which would also promote action by States to prevent and eliminate clandestine movements and trafficking in migrant workers, covers a wide range of rights including workers' freedom to leave any country, their right to practise a religion of their choice, and protection from arbitrary arrest and collective expulsion.

The Committee also today approved five texts on refugee matters and a series of drafts on human rights issues.

The draft resolutions on refugee questions, all approved without a vote, were concerned with the plight of refugees and returnees in southern Africa, the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the expansion of its Executive Committee, emergency assistance to Liberian refugees and the refugee situation in Central America.

The human rights texts, also approved without a vote, were concerned with such matters as the functioning of human rights treaty monitoring bodies, mental patients' rights, regulation of computerized personal data, children's rights, implementation of the international human rights Covenants, religious intolerance and torture.

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Because of the serious implications of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in many developing countries, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to mobilize the United Nations system to help in planning multisectoral projects and fund-raising in countries requesting assistance, according to a draft resolution approved this morning without a vote by the Economic and Financial Committee.

The Committee also approved, without a vote, a draft by which the Assembly would agree that the eradication of poverty in developing countries was an objective of the highest priority and urge the United Nations system to implement measures to eradicate the problem.

Another draft, also approved without a vote, would have the Assembly decide to streamline the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and urge Member States to increase their financial contributions to United Nations development activities.

Also this morning, Piotr Kravchenko, Foreign Minister of Byelorussia, introduced a 135-Power draft resolution on international co-operation to address the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. By that draft, the Assembly would invite the Secretary-General to consider setting up a task force to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in that area.

In addition, seven draft resolutions were introduced by Bolivia, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries. Among the texts one would have the Assembly decide that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should take place at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 12 June 1992 and urge that representation at the Conference be at the level of Head of State or Government. By another draft the Assembly would request the Economic and Social Council to consider including Namibia in the list of least developed countries. A further text would have the Assembly decide that, as part of the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the 1990s, the Assembly should consider holding a third United Nations conference on LDCs at the end of the 1990s to decide on subsequent action.

* * *

The Trusteeship Council this morning adopted without a vote its report to the Security Council on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In the report, the Council noted that at the plebiscite held in Palau on 6 February 1990, the Compact of Free Association did not obtain the 75 per cent majority necessary for ratification. It also noted the statement of the representative of the Government of Palau in the Trusteeship Council on 21 May 1990 that the Palau leadership was reviewing possible options with respect to the resolution of Palau's future political status. It welcomed the assurance of the Administering Authority (United States) that it was prepared to assist the Government of Palau, at its request, in any appropriate endeavour leading to the final determination of a political status chosen by the people of Palau.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/778
29 November 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Security Council, by vote of 12 in favour, to 2 against (Cuba, Yemen), with 1 abstention (China), authorizes Member States to use "all necessary means" to ensure Iraq's compliance with its decisions, unless Iraq withdraws from Kuwait by 15 January.

◆ International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People is observed at Headquarters.

◆ General Assembly condemns violence against diplomatic premises and personnel as it adopts 11 resolutions, 2 decisions recommended by Legal Committee.

◆ World AIDS Day, with this year's theme "Women and AIDS", to be observed at Headquarters tomorrow.

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The Security Council today authorized Member States "to use all necessary means" to uphold and implement Security Council resolution 660 (1990) and all subsequent relevant resolutions", unless Iraq withdraws from Kuwait by 15 January. The Council took that action by adopting resolution 678 (1990) by a vote of 12 in favour to 2 against (Cuba and Yemen) with 1 abstention (China).

Sponsored by Canada, France, Romania, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, the resolution sets the 15 January deadline "to allow Iraq one final opportunity, as a pause of goodwill", to comply with the Council's decisions.

Addressing the Council after the vote, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the resolution just adopted envisaged "at least 45 days of earnest effort to achieve a peaceful solution of the crisis". He expressed hope that the time would be used to "the most constructive purpose".

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In requiring compliance with the resolutions of the Security Council, he said, the United Nations sought not surrender but "the most honourable way of resolving a crisis in a manner that respects all legitimate interests and is conducive to the wider peace and the rule of law".

The situation required that diplomatic effort be undertaken with renewed determination to "put the present crisis on the road to a peaceful outcome".

There were statements at today's meeting by all members of the Council, 13 of them represented at Foreign Minister level -- the United States, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Malaysia, Romania, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Zaire. The representative of Kuwait and Iraq also spoke.

* * *

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed today at Headquarters. The Day has been marked since 1977, when it was authorized by the General Assembly.

In a statement, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar said there existed a wide measure of agreement within the international community for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East. Such a settlement, he said, should be based on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories occupied since June 1967 and on the acknowledgement of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the States in the region. In addition, a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian problem should be based on the recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination. In that context, he said, the question of Jerusalem also remained of primary importance.

Citing the findings and conclusions of his recent report to the Security Council on the Middle East situation, the Secretary-General said that the efforts to achieve an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue had reached an impasse in the early months of 1990. Since then, he said, the situation in the occupied territories had worsened, causing the Security Council to focus increasingly on the question of safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians residing there.

The President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), said that this year, perhaps to a greater extent than in previous years and at a time when the world was moving from confrontation to co-operation, the Palestinian people were asking how this new spirit of co-operation was going to apply in their case.

He said the negotiation of a just and lasting peace in the region, as recommended by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, should take place in the framework of an international

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peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday condemned acts of violence against diplomatic premises and personnel, recalling recent Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq's violations of diplomatic security in occupied Kuwait.

The Assembly did so by adopting by a vote of 148 in favour to 1 against (Iraq), with no abstentions, a resolution on the protection, security and safety of diplomats and consular missions.

It was one of 11 resolutions and two decisions adopted by the Assembly on the recommendation of its Legal Committee.

The Assembly also urged all States to accord facilities, privileges and immunities to the delegations of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) or the League of Arab States.

Among other actions, the Assembly adopted a programme of activities for the first two years of the United Nations Decade of International Law; appealed to all States to become parties to the Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and called on States to create an international fact-finding commission to investigate alleged violations of the Protocols; and urged the United States, as host country, to bear in mind its obligations to facilitate the functioning of the United Nations in the light of travel restrictions which it had issued.

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Tomorrow, 30 November, World AIDS Day will be observed at United Nations Headquarters with the theme "Women and AIDS".

For the third consecutive year, the World Health Organization (WHO) is encouraging global observances of World AIDS Day, to strengthen world-wide efforts to stop the pandemic.

In recognition of the increasing prevalence of the HIV-virus (human immunodeficiency virus) and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) among women and children, the international theme this year is "Women and AIDS". WHO estimates that by the year 2000 the annual number of AIDS cases in women will begin to equal that in men.

The event at Headquarters will take place in the Economic and Social Council Chamber and will be opened by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and a representative of the WHO Director-General.

Other events to mark World AIDS Day will take place around the world in the coming days. The traditional date of the observance is 1 December.

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United Nations

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30 November 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General welcomes President Bush's announced intention to embark on series of contacts with Iraqi Government.

- Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for further six months, until 31 May 1991.

- United States make partial payments totalling some $186 million of its assessed contribution to United Nations regular budget.

- Secretary-General says he is deeply concerned over the "immense toll" taken by AIDS, in statement to mark observance of "World AIDS Day".

- Political and Security Committee ends work for year with approval of draft resolution reaffirming validity of 1970 Declaration on International Security.

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A United Nations spokesman said today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar viewed last night's Security Council resolution 678 on the Iraq-Kuwait issue, as a resolution which gives a "critically important opportunity to work for peace".

He said the Secretary-General welcomed the intention of the United States to embark on a series of contacts with the Iraqi Government, as announced this morning by President George Bush, who said he was inviting Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington, and would send United States Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad. The United Nations spokesman said Mr. Perez de Cuellar had expressed hope that those contacts would lead to "a just and peaceful settlement of the present crisis in the Persian Gulf".

The Secretary-General told correspondents after the Security Council meeting last night that he was constantly in touch with the Ambassador of Iraq, and had discussed with him many questions related to the present situation. Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he intended to make contacts with him, perhaps next week, concerning the reaction of his country to resolution 678.

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For information media—not an official record

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The Security Council this morning decided unanimously to renew until the end of May 1991, the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which has been supervising the cease-fire between Israel and Syria since 1974.

It did so by adopting resolution 679 (1990), which also calls for the Secretary-General to report at the end of the six-month mandate period on developments in the situation and on the measures taken to implement Security Council resolution 338 (1973). In that resolution, adopted following the 1973 hostilities, the Council called for a cease-fire and called on the parties to start implementing all parts of its resolution 242 (1967), which embodied the principles for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Following the adoption of the resolution today, the Council President, Thomas R. Pickering (United States), read out a complementary statement on behalf of Council members. He quoted from the Secretary-General's report on UNDOF, to the effect that the Middle East situation was likely to remain dangerous until a comprehensive settlement could be reached, and said that also reflected the view of the Council.

* * *

A United Nations official said today that United States Secretary of State James A. Baker had presented to the Secretary-General yesterday two checks totalling $185,732,250 in partial payment of the United States assessed contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations. This brought the amount paid by the United States in this calendar year to $302.6 million and reduced United States arrears for 1990 and all prior years to $296.2 million. The official said the total amount still owed by all Member States was some $400 million.

* * *

At the meeting held at Headquarters today in observance of "World AIDS Day 1990", Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was "deeply concerned" about the immense toll that was being paid by the entire human family as a result of the AIDS pandemic.

While industrialized nations still accounted for the greatest number of AIDS cases, developing countries were beginning to experience a rapid increase in the incidence of infection and disease, he said.

The Secretary-General went on to say that last month the World Health Organization (WHO) had raised its estimates of the number of adults infected with the human immunodeficiency virus to 8 to 10 million, from its previous estimated total of 6 to 8 million. Mr. Perez de Cuellar said the implications of the disease were no longer confined to the health sector alone; it had serious consequences in the economic and social spheres and raised new humanitarian concerns.

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The General Assembly would reaffirm the validity of the 1970 Declaration of the Strengthening of International Security, under the terms of a draft resolution approved this morning by the Political and Security Committee, as it ended its work for the current Assembly session.

The orally revised draft approved by 91 votes in favour to 1 against (United States), with 29 abstentions, would also have the Assembly call upon all States to refrain from the use or threat of use of force, intervention, foreign occupation or measures of political and economic coercion which violate the sovereignty of other countries as well as the sovereignty of peoples over their natural resources. The Assembly would also welcome the involvement of the Security Council in maintaining peace and security and express the hope that it would continue to address other threats to international peace.

Summing up the Committee's work for the session, the Chairman, Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal, said that while it showed a renewed and invigorating interest in matters concerning disarmament and arms limitation, it had "brought to the fore the reality that, despite a hopeful new world political environment, serious threats to peace and security remain".

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/780
3 December 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Draft circulated in General Assembly calls again for convening of international peace conference on Middle East.

- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee asks General Assembly to condemn Iraq for violations of human rights of Kuwaiti people and third-State nationals.

- Economic and Financial Committee discusses UNITAR activities; approves draft on technical assistance to developing countries.

- FAO Governing Council urges "successful conclusion" of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks; notes limited progress on agriculture.

* * *

By a draft resolution circulated this morning in the General Assembly, the Assembly would call once more for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and reaffirm the principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace in that region.

Under the draft -- one of five texts on the question of Palestine distributed as the Assembly continued its debate on that subject -- those principles include: withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories; guaranteed security arrangements for all States in the region; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees; dismantling Israeli settlements in the occupied territories; and guaranteeing freedom of access to holy places and religious buildings and sites.

A draft on the intifadah would have the Assembly demand that Israel abide scrupulously by the 1949 Geneva Convention and ask the Secretary-General urgently to examine the situation in the occupied territories, with a view to considering ways to protect Palestinian civilians there.

The other three texts concern United Nations activities in support of the Palestinian cause including the recommendations of the Committee on the

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Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Secretariat's Palestinian Rights Division and the Department of Public Information (DPI).

* * *

The General Assembly would condemn the Iraqi authorities and occupation forces for their serious violations of human rights of the Kuwaiti people and third-State nationals, according to a draft resolution approved this morning by its Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. In particular, it would condemn the continued and increasing acts of torture, arrests, summary executions, disappearances and abductions in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant human rights instruments.

It took that action by a recorded vote of 132 in favour to 1 against (Iraq), with 1 abstention (Zambia).

By other provisions of the draft, the Assembly would reaffirm that the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in wartime applied to Kuwait and that Iraq, as a high contracting party to that treaty, was bound to comply fully with all its terms.

The Assembly would also express serious concern about the systematic dismantling and pillaging of Kuwait's economic infrastructure, and demand that Iraq release all third-State nationals and treat all prisoners of war and detained civilians in accordance with the principles of international law.

The Assembly would condemn Iraq's rejection of the Kuwaiti Government's offer to send humanitarian assistance, including medicine, to the people under occupation and would ask the Human Rights Commission to consider the human rights situation in occupied Kuwait during its next session.

This morning, the Social Committee also approved, without a vote, two other drafts -- one on the work of the Centre for Human Rights, and the other on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

* * *

The Economic and Financial Committee (on Friday) completed discussion of training and research (the final item on its agenda for the current session) by considering the activities of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, and Michel Doo Kingue, Executive Director of UNITAR, both spoke of the continuing financial crisis of the Institute, its unsuccessful efforts to alleviate the situation by selling its headquarters building in New York and recommendations by its Board of Trustees that its debt to the United Nations -- some $9 million -- be deferred for five years and that it receive assistance from the Organization's regular budget.

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Most delegates addressing the Committee on that issue expressed support for the work of UNITAR, although the United States suggested that the Secretary-General prepare a report on how the Institute benefited the Organization and Member States. Both the United States and the United Kingdom said UNITAR should not receive support from the regular United Nations budget because it had already failed to attract the interest of donor countries.

Other speakers, including China, Cameroon and the Philippines, said UNITAR provided valuable assistance to developing countries. Several delegates said the Assembly should at least consider the recommendations of the UNITAR Board of Trustees, particularly regarding the deferral of debt repayments to the United Nations.

The Economic Committee also approved, without a vote, a draft decision by which the General Assembly would request developed countries, members of the United Nations system and international organizations to extend assistance to developing countries to enable them to strengthen their technical co-operation in food and agriculture.

Draft resolutions on the World Summit for Children and the governance of the World Food Programme were introduced by Sweden, while the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution on the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

* * *

The Governing Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has called on negotiators in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to reach "a successful conclusion" of the Uruguay Round trade talks. It noted that progress so far has been very limited, especially relating to agriculture.

The 49-nation Council, ending a two-week session in Geneva on Friday evening, urged all participants to demonstrate the necessary political will at the highest level to ensure the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round in the interests of a healthy and growing world economy. The Council stressed the need for an accord that would embrace a full package of measures to liberalize world markets and to achieve a more open and balanced international trading system.

The FAO body also noted that the failure to reach agreement in the current talks would have repercussions on efforts to protect the environment. Considering poverty and environmental degradation closely linked in developing countries, the Council called more favourable trade terms and debt relief pre-requisited for conservation-based development.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma, in an address to the Council, underlined the importance to developing countries of agricultural trade reforms. He said farm prices were plummeting, subsidies were rising and market access was hedged with restrictions. The situation would deteriorate even further if the Uruguay Round were to end in failure, he warned.

In other action, the Council admitted the Soviet Union as an observer to its current session and expressed the hope that, very soon, it would become a full member of the organization.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/781
4 December 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Haiti says electoral arrangements are proceeding under favourable conditions with regard to security, freedom and impartiality.

- General Assembly calls for reallocation of military savings to civilian activities for protection of environment; action among 48 resolutions and 4 decisions adopted on disarmament issues.

- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee calls for integration of existing drug units into single drug control programme based at Vienna. Also approves text relating to human rights in Iran.

* * *

A United Nations official told correspondents today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met yesterday with his Personal Representative for Haiti, Joao Augusto de Medicis, and discussed with him the situation in that country before the general elections, scheduled to begin on 16 December.

Mr. de Medicis informed the Secretary-General that the electoral arrangements were proceeding under favourable conditions with regard to security, freedom and impartiality. Mr. Perez de Cuellar expressed his satisfaction with the situation.

The United Nations official said that the United Nations Observer Group for the Verification of the Elections in Haiti (ONUVEH), which has been welcomed by the Haitian people, would continue to lend its full support to the Haitian authorities so that the electoral process would be brought to a successful conclusion and a democratic and legitimate government be elected in Haiti.

Briefing correspondents at Headquarters later today, Mr. de Medicis said the general situation in Haiti was calm, and the election campaign was going on smoothly. With regard to the security observers of ONUVEH operating around the country, Mr. de Medicis stressed they were unarmed and receiving full

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For information media--not an official record

co-operation from the Haitian Army in connection with the security situation of the country.

He said that a "near totality" of the Haitian electorate -- almost 2.7 million -- had already registered to cast their vote on 16 December.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning requested the Secretary-General to submit a study to next year's Assembly session on the possible reallocation of military resources to civilian activities that would protect the environment.

The request was contained in a resolution adopted by a recorded vote of 138 in favour to 3 against (France, United Kingdom, United States), with 12 abstentions, and was one of 48 resolutions and four decisions adopted this morning on the recommendation of the Political and Security Committee.

By another resolution, the Assembly called on all parties to the 1963 partial nuclear-test-ban Treaty to contribute to the success of the Amendment Conference, scheduled to be held from 7 to 18 January 1991.

On two resolutions concerning a nuclear-test ban, the Assembly first urged the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban at the beginning of the 1991 session; then, by a recorded vote of 127 in favour to 3 against (France, United Kingdom, United States), with 17 abstentions, urged all nuclear-weapon States to discontinue all nuclear-test explosions.

Under other resolutions adopted, the Assembly called for nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia and the Middle East, and condemned Israel's refusal to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and its co-operation with South Africa in the military field; and adopted other texts relating to science and technology; chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons; the security of non-nuclear-weapon States; the arms race in outer space; the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa; and South Africa's nuclear threat.

* * *

The General Assembly would call for the integration of existing United Nations drug units into a single drug control programme, based at Vienna, under the terms of a draft resolution approved this morning by the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. It took that action without a vote, after first approving a draft decision calling for exploration of funding possibilities for the African Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders.

In other action this morning, the Committee approved without a vote a revised text on human rights in Iran. By that draft, the Assembly would call on the Iranian Government to intensify efforts to investigate and rectify the human rights issues raised by the Special Representative of the Commission on

Human Rights, and would note the Government's improved co-operation with the Commission.

By a recorded vote of 94 in favour to 32 against, with 7 abstentions, the Committee approved a text calling for non-interference in the electoral processes of States.

Yesterday, the Committee had approved a draft which would have the General Assembly ask the Secretary-General to begin seeking suitable approaches whereby the United Nations could respond to States' requests for electoral assistance.

That text had been approved by a recorded vote of 106 in favour to 9 against (Angola, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia and Myanmar), with 12 abstentions.

In a statement before approval of today's draft on non-intervention in elections, the representative of Italy, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said the Twelve would vote against the text in opposition to any attempts to justify the denial of the right to free and democratic elections by selectively quoting the Charter.

The representative of Panama said he would vote against the draft because there was a contradiction between the draft and the spirit and the text of yesterday's draft on the same subject. The paragraphs in today's text disapproving of foreign interventions in the electoral processes of developing countries would in no way help to guarantee human rights or political rights, he said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/782
5 December 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Draft resolution before Security Council would have it appoint United Nations ombudsman to monitor situation of Palestinian civilians in occupied territories.

- Secretary-General urgently appeals for international assistance for civilians trapped in Monrovia.

- General Assembly holds annual debate on apartheid hearing calls for maintenance of sanctions against South Africa.

- Economic and Financial Committee recommends monitoring of United Nations activities relating to consequences of Chernobyl accident.

- Secretary-General sends message on occasion of International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.

* * *

A draft resolution calling for the appointment of a United Nations ombudsman to monitor the situation in the occupied territories was recirculated this morning in the Security Council.

Sponsored by Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen, the draft would have the Council deplore Israel's refusal to comply with its previous resolutions on the security of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. It would call on the high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure Israel's respect for that Convention, and would endorse the idea of convening a meeting of those parties to discuss what steps they could take.

The text had been circulated but not discussed on 27 November, during the Council's discussion of the situation in Kuwait.

In a statement before the Council, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom) said appeals for an impartial presence mandated by the United Nations needed to be given greater clarity before a decision could be taken. The United Kingdom would be prepared to consider extending the work of the United Nations

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For information media—not an official record

humanitarian agencies working in the occupied territories, provided they were not impeded in the performance of their main humanitarian tasks. Ideas that stood no chance of being implemented, he said, should not be embraced.

Speaking for China, Li Daoyu said his delegation supported any recommendations conducive to the protection of the Palestinian residents in the occupied territories. However, alleviation of the suffering of the Palestinian people and provision for their safety were not tantamount to solving the Palestinian question. The Council should seek a fair and reasonable settlement of that question.

Yuliy M. Vorontsov (Soviet Union) said the United Nations and the Council must take "urgent action to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories". It was high time for Israel to bring its policies in line with the positive trends in international political relations. Ultimately, practical steps must be taken to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. Israel's agreement, he stated, could have a positive impact on the situation.

Farouk Kaddoumi, observer for Palestine, said the American delegation had last month prevented the Council from voting on the draft resolution now before it. He deplored the attitude of the United States, which, he said, undermined its own credibility by continuing to support Israel's repressive policies. He supported the proposal for a permanent United Nations presence in the occupied territories to enhance the safety of the Palestinian people.

The Council will continue consideration of the question tomorrow afternoon.

After the Council meeting, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar replied to questions by correspondents that his recent report on the Temple Mount incident had produced a very important reaction from the Council. The draft, currently under consideration by the Council would -- if adopted -- "be a very significant step forward towards the solution of the problems of the Near East. as opposed to the Middle East: Iraq and Kuwait".

When asked if there was a change in the way the issue on the occupied territories was being handled in the Security Council, Mr. Perez de Cuellar replied "Even without linking one problem with the other, I mean the Iraq-Kuwait with the Near East, I think it is obvious that if the Iraq-Kuwait problem is solved and if we would want to consolidate peace in the whole area, the Near East problem would have to be addressed, no doubt."

* * *

The Secretary-General today made an appeal for $13.8 million for urgent humanitarian assistance for the estimated 350,000 Liberians, including about 120,000 children, who are without food, health facilities and water in Monrovia as a result of the civil conflict in Liberia. The appeal covers only

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the most urgent needs in the capital area and represents essential requirements in order to launch immediately the desperately needed relief operations.

Since last January when the first reports of civil war in Liberia reached the press, more than 500,000 refugees have fled the country, leaving approximately 1.5 million internally displaced. Much of the country's already fragile infrastructure has been destroyed, in particular health facilities.

United Nations missions have described the conditions of civilians in Monrovia as appalling and have reported that many thousands of children are suffering from malnutrition and starvation. A core United Nations emergency operations team led by the Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Operations in Liberia, Michael Heyn, is in the capital to facilitate the distribution of relief supplies in which full use of international and national non-governmental organizations will be made.

A programme focused primarily on the critical first months has been prepared by the Special Co-ordinator to include food aid ($6.2 million), medical supplies and facilities ($4.5 million) and water and sanitation ($1.1 million).

As soon as conditions permit, an assessment will be made of the emergency requirements of Liberia as a whole to serve as the basis for a more comprehensive appeal for international assistance.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday began its annual debate on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa.

In today's meeting, speakers expressed strong support for the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences, and regretted that the Government of South Africa had not yet implemented all the pre-conditions set out in the Declaration. Most of them noted that despite recent positive developments initiated by the Government under President De Klerk, the basic machinery of apartheid remained intact. They called on the world community to support the maintenance and strengthening of international sanctions against South Africa until apartheid was totally eradicated.

Yesterday, the Assembly heard speakers expressing concern over continued reports of violence on the part of police and security forces, competing political organizations and right wing elements. Some speakers charged that the Government had not made adequate efforts to control the violence; others said that it was employing delaying tactics to consolidate the power of the white minority.

Addressing yesterday's Assembly meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), expressed concern over

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Pretoria's failure to translate its intentions fully into action. He said the months ahead were crucial, and the Special Committee would report to the Assembly again in mid-spring of 1991.

In its latest report on the situation in South Africa, the Special Committee stated that violence is becoming a threat to the negotiations in the country and could lead to the creation of a permanent conflict which would have grave consequences. With regard to the trade sanctions against South Africa, the Committee expressed concern about the establishment of diplomatic and trade links of "certain African and East European countries with South Africa". The Special Committee also reported continuing military and nuclear collaboration between Israel and South Africa.

* * *

The General Assembly would invite the Secretary-General to consider setting up a task force to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in addressing the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, according to a 121-Power draft resolution approved by the Economic and Financial Committee this afternoon without a vote.

Another draft approved this afternoon, also without a vote, would have the Assembly request the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Government of the Sudan, to continue to co-ordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to help that country in its emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

For the first time in several years, a draft on special assistance to the front-line States in Africa was approved without a vote.

It would have the Assembly urge the international community to continue to provide the financial, material and technical assistance to the countries affected by the economic measures taken by South Africa, or by the international community against South Africa, in accordance with their national and regional plans and strategies.

* * *

The Secretary-General in a message today in observance of International Volunteer Day paid tribute to the thousands of men and women who were serving in national and international volunteer programmes all over the world, sharing their knowledge and expertise to help others.

Volunteers skilled in agriculture, communications, transport, health and education provided a practical response to the need for development, thus making an important contribution to the eradication of poverty, the Secretary-General said.

Some 7,000 volunteers had served in more than 100 countries with the United Nations Volunteers programme, which will celebrate its twentieth anniversary next year.

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CORRECTION: With reference to the sixth paragraph on page 3 of Press Release DH/780 issued on 3 December 1990, please note that the meeting of the Governing Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) took place in Rome.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/783
6 December 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly calls for convening of international peace conference on Middle East; condemns Israeli violation of human rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Decisions taken are among five resolutions adopted on question of Palestine. Also, debate on apartheid concluded.

- Secretary-General reports on continuing financial difficulties for United Nations peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

- Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee concludes session's work by approving proposal on streamlining its work, and on non-selectivity in United Nations human rights activities.

* * *

The General Assembly today ended its annual debate on South African policies of apartheid hearing speakers call for a faster pace of reform in South Africa and urging the removal of all the obstacles to negotiations cited in last year's consensus Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in southern Africa.

Following the conclusion of the apartheid debate, the Assembly adopted five resolutions on the question of Palestine, including three texts on United Nations activities relating to that question. By one resolution the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and urged it to continue to promote their implementation. The Assembly in another resolution, asked the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Secretariat's Palestinian Rights Division continues to discharge the tasks mandated by past Assembly resolutions.

A third text called for the Department of Public Information (DPI) to continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine.

In addition, the Assembly called once more for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and reaffirmed the

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For information media—not an official record

principles for the achievement of comprehensive peace in that region. Those principles include withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories; guaranteed security arrangements for all States in the region; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees; dismantling Israeli settlements in the occupied territories; and guaranteeing freedom of access to holy places and religious buildings and sites.

By a resolution on the Intifadah, the Assembly condemned the Israeli policies and practices which violated the human rights of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. It also called on the high contracting parties of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure Israel's respect for the Convention in all circumstances. Further, the Assembly asked the Security Council to consider measures to provide international protection to Palestinians in the occupied territories. By that resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to examine the situation there and to submit periodic reports thereon, the first such report to be submitted as soon as possible.

Yesterday, during the debate on apartheid, a number of speakers expressed concern over the continuing violence in South Africa's black townships, urging that the Government make greater efforts to bring that violence under control.

Speaking at yesterday's meeting, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania said it was difficult to accept that any Government -- let alone one with South Africa's "all-powerful and all-pervasive security system" -- was powerless to stop the carnage.

Yet, he said, the regime and its friends in the West portrayed the conflict as "black-on-black" violence and the gullible public accepted it. Rejecting such "propaganda", he said there was evidence to confirm the involvement of the South African Defence Force (SADF) in the training of Inkatha -- a newly formed political party consisting mainly of Zulus.

Uganda said Zulu and Xhosa participants had "their fair share of responsibility for the violence", but added that an ultra-right white "third force" had fanned the violence in the hope of derailing the current positive trend. Zambia said that the South African regime was "standing on the sidelines cheering as the factional violence, which it created through the bantustan policy, escalates". It was allowing the violence to continue "to encourage the notion that blacks are irresponsible and violent and therefore not ready to assume the leadership of the country".

Several speakers drew attention to a recent increased emigration of Eastern Europeans to South Africa, adding that some were joining the police and armed forces of the regime. In that context, it was stated that black South African exiles were facing difficulties obtaining authorization to return home, whereas white immigrants after six months qualified automatically for citizenship, the right to vote and enlistment into the South African Defence Force. Some speakers expressed concern at reports that former

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employees of the security services of Eastern European countries were being absorbed into South Africa's security forces. Uganda called for the Secretary-General to investigate those reports.

Canada, warning that continued violence placed at risk the goal of a negotiated end to apartheid, said: "How it started matters less than how it will stop." He said all of South Africa's leaders, and those who looked to them for direction, should set aside considerations of personal and short-term advantage, as well as narrow partisan differences in favour of the overriding importance of their common purpose; and called on the Government to ensure the effective and impartial action of the security forces.

The observer for the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) concurred that the level of violence continued to pose a direct threat to the peace process, stressing his rejection of any suggestion that the ANC was the source of that violence. Furthermore, he said, the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the country could not be shifted to the ANC.

* * *

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is short over $200 million due from countries that have not paid their assessments, according to a report of 28 November by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The Secretary-General called on all Member countries to pay their assessments in full and without delay so that troop-contributing Governments can be reimbursed. He said the shortfall was causing an unfair and heavy burden on those Governments.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar also appealed to all countries to make voluntary contributions to a special UNIFIL account which has been set up to facilitate the reimbursement of amounts due to Governments furnishing troops, equipment and supplies to the peace-keeping force.

* * *

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee yesterday concluded its work for the current session by approving a proposai for streamlining its work and a revised draft resolution on non-selectivity in United Nations human rights activities. It took those actions without a vote.

Under the proposed new work programme, questions allocated to the Committee would be regrouped, so that related issues would be taken up together. A substantial portion of the Committee's agenda would be considered every other year, rather than annually. Among the other changes called for would be efforts to prepare omnibus draft resolutions rather than multiple texts on questions before the Committee and further consideration of the question of revitalizing the Economic and Social Council.

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Under the terms of a revised draft on non-selectivity in human rights activities, the Assembly would affirm that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms were legitimate concerns of the world community and should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, not used for political ends.

In a concluding statement, the Committee Chairman, Juan O. Somavia (Chile) said that after five unsuccessful attempts in the past, the Committee had finally approved measures to rationalize its work because delegations had been willing to seek consensus.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/784
7 December 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ General Assembly begins debate on Middle East: speakers stress Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

◆ United Nations press officer in Haiti reports that seven are killed and several dozen more wounded at electoral meeting in the country.

◆ President of General Assembly to visit Palestine refugees in January.

◆ Benon Sevan to succeed Sadruddin Aga Khan in directing "Operation Salam" in Afghanistan.

◆ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) protests assaults on its staff by Israeli border police.

◆ Drafts on World Summit for Children, Natural Disaster Reduction Decade, United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) and assistance to Yemen approved by Economic and Financial Committee.

◆ UNDRO to distribute relief supplies to Egyptian returnees from Iraq/Kuwait; Agency also organizes emergency relief flight to Freetown, following Secretary-General's recent appeal for Liberian refugees in Monrovia.

* * *

Israel was urged to end its occupation of territories occupied since 1967 by speakers in the General Assembly this morning beginning their consideration of the situation in the Middle East. Speakers stressed that any change in the demographic structure of the territories was illegal and that the provisions of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention should be implemented in those territories.

Delegates also stressed support for an international peace conference on the Middle East as the most appropriate forum in which to find a just and lasting solution to the problem. A number of speakers expressed concern at the prolonged and destructive occupation of Kuwait and, supporting the

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For information media—not an official record

relevant Security Council resolutions adopted since the Iraqi invasion, called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate Government.

Among those addressing the Assembly, the representative of Israel said the conviction that "the question of Palestine was the core of the conflict in the Middle East" was nonsense. The Iraqi obliteration of Kuwait had shattered the fable of peaceful inter-Arab relations in the Middle East, and no amount of repetitive anti-Israel resolutions could drive Iraqi tanks out of Kuwait. Israel's problem was Arab hatred, while the Arab problem was the problem of brotherly States. United Nations resolutions blaming Israel for the Middle East situation would remain a remote footnote in the history of the Organization, he said.

A meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the occupied territories scheduled to be held early tonight was postponed until 5 p.m. tomorrow, 8 December.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Spokesman said today that he had received a communiqué, issued after yesterday's events at an electoral meeting in Haiti, at which seven people were killed and dozens more wounded by a hand grenade. The communiqué indicated that Joao Augusto de Medicis, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Haiti, intended to continue with the United Nations role in election preparations and had been in touch with the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in the country, who had assured him that all security measures decided upon would be implemented so that elections could take place as planned.

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A United Nations official announced today that the President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), would visit Palestine refugee camps in Jordan and the occupied Arab territories early in the new year.

He said the visit will permit the President to see first hand the conditions faced by those living in the camps and to personally express to them the support of the General Assembly and concern for their plight. It was believed to be, he stated, the first such visit ever made by an Assembly President.

According to the official, the idea for the tour originated in discussions in October between President de Marco and Giorgio Giacomelli, head of UNRWA which, under the authority of the General Assembly, provides vital services to the refugees. Mr. Giacomelli said the visit would provide an opportunity to show the President how UNRWA is meeting the formidable challenges facing it in carrying out its Assembly mandate.

The President was likely to have official meetings in Israel and in Jordan in the course of the visit, the official said.

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The Secretary-General's Spokesman said today in a statement that Mr. Perez de Cuellar had "reluctantly agreed to the request of Sadruddin Aga Khan to be relieved of his responsibilities as Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan as of 31 December 1990". The Spokesman said the Secretary-General wished to put on record his deep appreciation and thanks for the tireless efforts of Sadruddin Aga Khan during the last 28 months in discharging "Operation Salam" -- a major programme of emergency relief presently being implemented across Afghanistan by United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. To date, over $1 billion in cash and in kind has been pledged by the international community.

The Secretary-General had decided that as of 1 January 1991, Benon Sevan, in addition to his current function as the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, would also assume responsibility for the overall direction and administration of Operation Salam, the Spokesman said.

* * *

The UNRWA reported that its Commissioner-General, Giorgio Giacomelli, today approached the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Vienna regarding a series of incidents in Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, yesterday, in which UNRWA staff members were physically abused by the Israeli border police.

The Agency reported that the incidents occurred after UNRWA refugee affairs officers inquired about the arrest and beating of a Palestinian youth. One international staff member was shot at with blank ammunition, another sustained a fractured thumb when hit by a rock and the third was struck in the chest with a rifle butt.

Khan Younis refugee camp was the scene of an earlier assault on an UNRWA refugee affairs officer on 18 October, UNRWA noted, when plastic-covered metal bullets were fired, at short range, at his car, wounding his assistant.

The Agency's Field Office in Gaza has protested these incidents to the Israeli Civil Administration.

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The General Assembly would urge all States to achieve the objectives endorsed in the World Summit for Children's Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action, according to a draft resolution approved without a vote this afternoon by the Economic and Financial Committee.

In addition, the Committee approved, without a vote, three other drafts concerning the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990s); strengthening the capacity of the

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Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO); and an assessment of the needs of Yemen resulting from its unification.

In a brief debate on the organization of the Committee's work, the Chairman, George Papadatos (Greece), said he hoped the Committee would complete its work for the present session on Tuesday, 11 December.

* * *

Relief supplies for distribution to the children of Egyptian families who have lost their livelihood and possessions following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq last August are due to arrive in Alexandria on 21 December. This was stated in an announcement by UNDRO made available today at Headquarters.

The Agency said the emergency supplies, which consist of some 75 tons of milk powder, is part of the ongoing relief efforts to assist those countries most afflicted by the crisis. It has been made possible by grants from Austria, Denmark and the United States for a total of $300,000.

Earlier this week, the Egyptian Minister for Migration, Fouad Iskander, briefed the UNDRO Co-ordinator, Mr. Essaafi, on the situation of the returnees, telling him that some 400,000 Egyptian nationals had so far returned from Iraq and Kuwait. The Egyptian Minister indicated that his country faced arduous problems in providing shelter, food, medical assistance and sanitation for the returnees, pending their reintegration, and that emergency relief supplies were still needed.

In a similar announcement, UNDRO said it had organized the chartering of an aircraft which was flying to Freetown today, loaded with 30 tons of emergency relief supplies destined for Monrovia, donated by the Swiss Government and two German non-governmental organizations. This announcement follows the appeal issued by the Secretary-General on Wednesday to the international community for relief assistance to Liberia.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/785
10 December 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Human Rights Day observance at Headquarters focuses attention on safety and independence of United Nations staff serving around the world.

- Proposal for United Nations peace-keeping force to verify Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait contained in "peace plan" submitted by four non-aligned members of Security Council -- Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen.

- Security Council defers action on draft resolution calling for protection of Palestinians in occupied territories.

- Debate on situation in Middle East continues in General Assembly.

* * *

Today is Human Rights Day, which marks the forty-second anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In observing the day, the Organization this year is focusing its attention on the safety and independence of its staff serving around the world.

At a time when the United Nations is being called upon to undertake greater responsibilities in different parts of the world, the Secretary-General has been requested to continue his efforts to ensure that the legal and human rights of United Nations staff members are fully respected.

In 1980, the Commission on Human Rights addressed the issue of the infringement of the human rights of United Nations staff. It appealed to Member States to respect their obligations under the various international instruments they had undertaken to observe. Today, the Commission continues to reiterate the same plea.

Since the Commission first drew attention to the situation, 134 United Nations staff members have disappeared or have been arrested, detained,

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For information media—not an official record

imprisoned or killed. Denial of the rights of international civil servants -- rights guaranteed for all persons in the United Nations Charter -- has occurred in a number of countries where staff are working.

Each year, the Secretary-General presents a report to the General Assembly on the situation. In his latest report, dated October 1990, he noted the seriousness of every case and assured the Assembly that he would do his utmost to resolve the cases successfully.

In his message marking today's observance, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said developments on the global scene had strikingly demonstrated the importance of respect for human rights for maintaining conditions of peace and stability.

Referring to developments in Eastern Europe, he said those events had reaffirmed respect for the fundamental freedoms of the individual and the self-determination of peoples, thus carrying a promise for the world as a whole.

Simultaneously, significant progress had been made regarding children's human rights, the Secretary-General said, citing the coming into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the recent World Summit on Children, which was attended by an impressive gathering of world leaders.

In spite of progress, however, peace could not be secure nor could stability be assured without tolerance and rational dialogue within and between nations, the Secretary-General said. Social justice had to be enhanced and the reduction of poverty strengthened by the course of world affairs at every stage.

* * *

Four non-aligned members of the Security Council -- Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen -- have submitted to the Council a "peace plan" for the Persian Gulf, proposing that a United Nations peace-keeping force oversee the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

In a letter to the President of the Council, Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal (Yemen), the four countries stated that the Council could "serve the cause of peace no better than to work collectively to avoid the outbreak of war". They advocated that sanctions be lifted and foreign troops withdrawn from the region immediately after the full withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

The non-aligned countries called on the Secretary-General to oversee diplomatic efforts to establish the basis for the settlement of the differences between Kuwait and Iraq, either through direct negotiations, resort to the International Court of Justice or any other legal procedures agreed to by the parties.

The four Council members would also have the Secretary-General, in consultation with Iraq and Kuwait and other countries in the region,

facilitate the preparation and prompt adoption of measures to be carried out under United Nations supervision to enhance their security and stability through urgent regional and international arrangements. Those agreements would address mutual assurances for non-aggression and arms and armed forces reduction.

* * *

The Security Council, at a meeting on Saturday, 8 December, deferred action on a draft resolution calling for the parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in wartime to ensure Israel's respect for that instrument, and for the Secretary-General to monitor and observe the situation in the occupied territories.

By a vote of 9 in favour (Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, Romania, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire) to 4 against (Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia, Yemen -- the draft's sponsors), with 2 abstentions (China, France), the Council accepted the Soviet Union's motion to allow until 3 p.m. today, 10 December, for further informal consultations on the text. It agreed to resume those consultations immediately after the adjournment of Saturday night's meeting.

In the debate which preceded the vote, the sponsors of the text urged immediate action; Malaysia said the motion for delay was aimed at securing the removal of the draft's seventh operative paragraph, which refers to the convening of a Middle East peace conference as a way to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive settlement in the region. Those who supported the deferral argued that it would allow for the negotiation of a universally acceptable text.

Also on Saturday, the Council expressed its sympathy to Malaysia following the death of that country's first Prime Minister.

At a brief meeting this afternoon, the Council decided to meet again at 7 p.m. today.

* * *

Speakers in today's General Assembly debate on the situation in the Middle East stressed the urgency of finding a solution to the conflict in that region, and called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Among the speakers, the representative of the United States expressed support for the idea of a "transitional period" pending a final settlement, and in that regard, endorsed the idea of "free and fair elections" in the occupied territories as offering a "practical pathway". The representative of the Soviet Union said he would support any steps of a "transitional nature" leading to the convening of an international peace conference.

This afternoon, the Assembly was also scheduled to take up the annual report of the Security Council, appoint members of the Committee on Conferences and consider the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/786
11 December 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly adopts 24 resolutions on a number of issues, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, peace-keeping operations, information questions. Concludes debate on law of the sea.

- Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it extend mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for a further six months, until 15 June 1991.

- Security Council again defers action on draft resolution on protection of Palestinians in occupied territories.

* * *

The General Assembly this afternoon adopted 24 resolutions, contained in eight reports of the Special Political Committee, dealing with science and peace, the effects of atomic radiation, international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space, UNRWA, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, peace-keeping operations, information questions and the composition of United Nations organs.

The Assembly also concluded its debate on the law of the sea; and considered the request by Germany for the inclusion of two sub-items in the agenda, dealing with an election to fill a vacancy in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the appointment to fill a vacancy in the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Both vacancies resulted from the unification of the two German States on 3 October.

Yesterday, the Assembly concluded its debate on the situation in the Middle East, hearing a total of 39 speakers, many of which stressed the urgency of finding a solution to the conflict in that region and called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

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For information media--not an official record

Among yesterday's speakers, the representative of Yemen said that although his country had condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it opposed the amassing of foreign armed forces. So much attention was paid to the Gulf crisis by the major Powers because of the concentration of oil in that region. The representative of Chile referred to the impact of rising oil prices on the economies of developing countries and supported the idea of an informal meeting of experts to examine the problem.

Exercising the right of reply, the representative of Iraq said the United States could not hide its bias towards Israel, which was behind all the problems in the region. He said the United States had first made a decision to act against Iraq in order to get oil from the region, and it subsequently forced the Council to adopt the "evil war resolution" against Iraq. At the same time, the United States had blocked efforts to put an end to Israeli occupation and to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East, which showed the United States' disregard for the United Nations.

Also at that meeting, the Assembly took up the annual report of the Security Council, hearing statements by three of the Council's non-aligned members -- Colombia, Cuba and Malaysia.

Colombia said the new international era must not mean that a "dictatorship of the permanent members" would prevail to the detriment of all other countries, and called for changes in the manner of operation and the rules governing the Council, specifically concerning the right of veto.

Malaysia said the close co-operation between the five permanent members of the Council raised unsettling, if not frightening, prospects for the future. While there appeared to be unity of purpose, in reality the working method employed caused divisions and created a situation of consensus when, in fact, the vast majority of the members of the Council "have to agree with a predominant member". What had been presented as a happy consensus in the Council was, in reality, mainly cosmetic.

Cuba said the Security Council was not a secret society, and that it should be responsible to what the majority of the Members of the United Nations were asking it to do. The General Assembly had come out in favour of the national rights of the Palestinian people, and yet the Council had not taken action on the issue because of the negative position of two States.

Concerning membership of the Committee on Conferences, the President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), appointed Chile, Cyprus, France, Gabon, Japan, Kenya and the Soviet Union to three-year terms beginning on 1 January 1991, and appointed Hungary, until 31 December 1991, to occupy the seat left vacant by the former German Democratic Republic.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six-month period, until 15 June 1991.

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The Force keeps the buffer zone between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in the island under constant surveillance to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to contribute to the maintenance of law and order.

In a report to the Council dated 7 December, the Secretary-General said that, in the light of the prevailing circumstances, the continued presence of the Force in the island remained indispensable to achieve the objectives set by the Council. He said UNFICYP continued to perform its important functions in an exemplary manner, often under difficult circumstances.

The Secretary-General stressed in the report that UNFICYP was facing a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis, which, he said, imposed a most unfair burden on the troop-contributing countries. The best way to finance UNFICYP on a more equitable basis, he said, would be for the United Nations share of the costs of the Force to be financed from assessed contributions.

* * *

The Security Council yesterday, for the second time in three days, deferred action on a draft resolution concerning the protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

By a vote of 9 in favour (Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, Romania, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States and Zaire) to 4 against (Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen -- the draft's sponsors), with 2 abstentions (China and France), the Council accepted the Soviet Union's motion to allow until 6 p.m. Wednesday, 12 December, for further informal consultations on the text. It agreed to resume consultations immediately following last night's meeting.

In statements preceding the vote, both Malaysia and Cuba opposed the Soviet proposal, saying the co-sponsors could not support any further attempt to dilute the text, and that the two major points of contention -- the inclusion of "Jerusalem" in the text and the idea of an international peace conference -- were not even controversial. The United States and the United Kingdom indicated that progress had been made in the informal negotiations and that they should be continued.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) also this morning concluded its debate on the financing of peace-keeping operations. Several speakers stressed the role of troop-contributing States in the success of those operations, and called for an increase in the rate of reimbursement to those countries. Others said the developing countries should contribute to the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping. Some speakers also suggested that equipment for a proposed reserve stock should be funded from voluntary contributions and from the remaining assets of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia.

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Among today's speakers, Finland, on behalf of the five Nordic countries, (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norwayand Sweden), said the financial basis of peace-keeping activities must be assessed contributions. It was an anomaly that UNFICYP continued to be financed by voluntary contributions. The Five were concerned that the amount of outstanding contributions for ongoing operations, especially the Cyprus Force, was nearly $400 million.

A substantial increase in the reimbursement rate was needed. Even if the Nordic countries had been fully reimbursed by the United Nations, they would still have absorbed about half of their overall costs for the troops.

In yesterday's debate on the issue, the United States said it had played a leading role in supporting peace-keeping operations in Korea, the Middle East and the Congo. The United States Congress was committed to paying outstanding assessments, and had already appropriated 20 per cent of the amount. While it supported the establishment of a reserve stock for peace-keeping operations, the United States said it should not be funded through increased assessments of Member States, rather, voluntary contributions should supplement the existing stock left over from the UNTAG operation in Namibia to create the reserve stock.

Also this morning, the Committee decided to inform the Assembly that no additional appropriations would be required in 1990-1991 for the convening of a proposed world conference on human rights in 1993. A 1992-1993 estimate for the conference and for its preparatory committee would be considered by the Assembly next year.

In other action yesterday, the Committee approved without a vote programme budget implications of 11 draft resolutions of the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) and a draft resolution on implementing an international convention on migrant workers' rights and a draft text calling for a report on UNTAG.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/787
12 December 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly seeks study on establishment of United Nations station in Antarctica. Also calls for exclusion of South Africa from meeting of Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties.

- Romania informs Security Council it is among countries most heavily stricken by sanctions imposed against Iraq and Kuwait; expects to lose more than $2.9 billion this year as a result.

- Economic and Financial Committee adopts draft encouraging development of entrepreneurship in all countries and urging world community to support their efforts; approves 20 other drafts.

* * *

The General Assembly this afternoon requested the Secretary-General to prepare two reports -- the first, a comprehensive study on the establishment of a United Nations-sponsored station in Antarctica; the second on the state of the environment in Antarctica. The Assembly acted on draft resolutions recommended by its Political and Security Committee.

By the terms of the draft on the Antarctica reports, which was adopted by a roll-call vote of 98 in favour to none against, with 7 abstentions (Fiji, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Ukraine, Portugal, Turkey), both reports would be submitted to the forty-sixth Assembly session in 1991. Forty-five States announced their non-participation in the vote.

Under the terms of a second Antarctica draft, adopted this afternoon by a roll-call vote of 107 in favour to none against, with 7 abstentions (Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mauritius, Malawi, Portugal, Ukraine), the Assembly expressed deep concern that no concrete measures had been taken in accordance with last year's General Assembly resolution which appealed to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to exclude South Africa from participation in their meetings. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter to the forty-sixth session. Thirty-seven States announced their non-participation in the vote.

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For information media—not an official record

Before the voting, the representative of Australia, speaking on behalf of the 39 States parties to the Antarctic Treaty, said they continued to believe that consideration of Antarctica by the Assembly should proceed only on the basis of consensus.

In addition to the Antarctic drafts, the Assembly this afternoon adopted four additional resolutions concerning, among other things, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and the 1970 Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security.

Also this afternoon, the Assembly deferred until its next session consideration of two agenda items -- on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) question and the question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia. It also filled Eastern European seats vacated on subsidiary bodies due to the unification of Germany -- appointing the Ukraine to serve out the term of the German Democratic Republic on the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Bulgaria to do so on the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

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The Government of Romania has informed the Security Council of severe economic hardships resulting from the implementation of sanctions against Iraq.

In a memorandum submitted to the Council, by the Permanent Representative of Romania, Aurel Dragos Munteanu, the Government stated that "it would not be exaggerated to estimate that Romania was one of the countries most heavily stricken by the imposition of sanctions".

According to the memorandum, Romania will lose more than $2.9 billion this year, not including indirect effects, from applying the embargo, and it expects next year to be even worse should the sanctions continue. Of particular concern is the oil shortage for the coming winter, the large trade deficit and the depletion of national foreign currency reserves.

The Government of Romania said its economic problems were "so profound that they might cause political instability and endanger the very process of transition towards democracy and a market economy".

* * *

The General Assembly would encourage the development of entrepreneurship in all countries, including those seeking to develop or revitalize their economies through free enterprise and market opportunities, and urge the international community to support their efforts, according to a draft resolution approved yesterday by the Economic and Financial Committee.

The draft was approved by a recorded vote of 121 in favour to 2 against (Cuba, Guinea), with 2 abstentions (Angola, Burkina Faso).

(more)

In a statement before the vote, the representative of Cuba said the text was ideological in nature because it promoted the market economy, which was inconsistent with the needs of many countries, including his own.

The Committee approved without a vote 20 other draft resolutions on issues ranging from the external indebtedness question to a framework convention on climate change.

By one draft, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly decide to hold the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 12 June 1992, and would urge that representation be at the level of Head of State or Government.

The Committee also recommended that the Assembly welcome the offer of the Government of Uruguay to host the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) at Punta del Este, where the session would be convened from 21 September to 8 October 1991.

Among drafts concerning development and international economic co-operation, the Committee adopted one by which the Assembly would recognize that because external indebtedness impedes the economic growth of many poor countries, a durable, equitable and development-oriented solution to the debt problem of those countries must be achieved.

By another draft approved last night, the Assembly would appeal to the international community to provide all necessary assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/788
13 December 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretariat review team on United Nations peace-keeping Force in Cyprus says present method of financing the force is "unsatisfactory".

- General Assembly adopts resolution on co-operation with League of Arab States and three resolutions on situation in the Middle East.

- Security Council again defers action on draft dealing with protection of Palestinians in occupied territories; schedules further meeting for 17 December.

* * *

The present method of financing the United Nations peace-keeping Force in Cyprus is "most unsatisfactory", and in the future should be changed so that it is financed from assessed contributions to the Organization.

This is the view of a Secretariat team which has been reviewing the financial situation of the Force.

In a report to the Security Council on its findings issued today, the team said that despite the Secretary-General's persistent efforts to appeal for more voluntary contributions to the peace-keeping Force in Cyprus, the amount received over the past 10 years had decreased, as had the number of Governments that make contributions.

The team emphasized that the situation "should not be allowed to persist" as it could "jeopardize the very existing of the Force". It reported that the departure of the Swedish contingent in 1987 was in large measure due to the peace-keeping Force's financial crisis. The team said that recently Denmark had also indicated that it was considering the withdrawal of its contingent for similar reasons.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Security Council will consider, at a meeting tomorrow afternoon, the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of the peace-keeping Force in Cyprus until 15 June 1991.

* * *

The General Assembly this afternoon adopted a resolution on co-operation with the League of Arab States and three resolutions on the situation in the Middle East.

By a recorded vote of 99 in favour to 19 against, with 32 abstentions, the Assembly called again for the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East.

A paragraph in the resolution characterizing strategic co-operation agreements between the United States and Israel, and the supply of arms and economic aid to Israel by the United States, as an encouragement to Israel "to pursue its aggressive and expansionist policies" was adopted in a separate recorded vote of 52 in favour to 37 against, with 49 abstentions.

In a text on the Syrian Arab Golan, the Assembly called on States to halt aid to Israel "aimed at prolonging Israeli occupation of the Arab territories or encouraging Israel to pursue its aggression against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people". It further determined in that text, which was adopted by a recorded vote of 84 in favour to 23 against, with 41 abstentions, that Israel was "not a peace-loving Member State" and had not carried out its Charter obligations.

A resolution declaring the imposition of Israeli jurisdiction and administration on Jerusalem to be illegal was adopted by a recorded vote of 145 in favour to 1 against (Israel), with 4 abstentions (Costa Rica, Dominica, Malawi, United States).

* * *

For the third time in five days, the Security Council last night deferred action on a draft resolution concerning the protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. Accepting a Soviet motion to allow time for further informal consultations on the text, the Council agreed to reconvene on Monday, 17 December.

The Council had taken a similar vote on Saturday, 8 December, deferring action until 10 December, only to vote by the same margin on that day to defer action until yesterday.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/789
14 December 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

@ Secretary-General speaks of assurances that conditions exist for "fair and calm" elections in Haiti, scheduled to take place on Sunday (16 December).

@ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations peace-keeping force in Cyprus for further six months, until 15 June 1991.

@ President of General Assembly says forty-fifth session of Assembly "first in the post-cold war era", was marked by "rising tide of consensus decisions".

@ Secretary-General says global refugee situation, increasingly complicated by migratory trends resulting from growing economic disparity or environmental decline, can pose grave threats to peace.

* * *

United Nations-supervised elections are scheduled to take place in Haiti on Sunday (16 December).

In a statement today, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the reaffirmation of the sovereign right of the Haitian people to choose its own destiny and its "unsuppressable determination to reject all that is arbitrary" commanded the international community's attention.

By going to register in large numbers, he said, the Haitian people had clearly demonstrated their will to decide their own future, and he had no doubt they would go in very large numbers to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said his Personal Representative, Joao Augusto de Medicis, had received assurances from Haitian authorities that the conditions were right for fair and calm elections. The results to be proclaimed by the Provisional Electoral Council would be the expression of the electors' votes. He was confident that the Haitian people and the political leaders and their followers would recognize their choice in those results.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

A United Nations official told news correspondents today there were currently some 367 observers in Haiti. Of these, 154 were United Nations staff, observers from Member States and experts and non-governmental organizations; 64 were security observers; 26 administrative and technical staff; and 73 were local staff. Altogether 36 countries were represented in the operation.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon extended to six months the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), until 15 June 1991.

The decision was taken by 14 votes in favour to none against, with Canada abstaining because of the situation with regard to the financing of the Force. There has been a proposal that the portion of the costs of UNFICYP for which the United Nations is responsible should be met by assessments from Member States rather than, as of present, by voluntary contributions.

In a report to the Council the Secretary-General stressed that the Force was facing a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis, which imposed a most unfair burden on the countries contributing troops. It was his recommendation that UNFICYP be funded through assessed contributions.

A United Nations Secretariat team also concluded that the financial situation of UNFICYP "should not be allowed to persist", as it could "jeopardize the very existence of the Force".

* * *

At a news conference in New York today, the President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta) reviewed the forty-fifth session of the Assembly -- "the first in the post-cold war era" -- and said it was a peaceful session, marked by a rising tide of consensus decisions. He said the fact that 159 Member nations managed to arrive at consensus decisions was a feat in itself, and a reflection of the international situation.

Referring to "three major issues" of this Assembly, Mr. de Marco referred to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; the situation in the Middle East, in particular the occupied Arab territories; and the situation of developing countries. Aside from these three issues, he noted, the Assembly had reached consensus on the issues of Afghanistan and Cambodia and there were hopes for such agreement on apartheid questions. There had been fewer meetings, fewer contentious debates and fewer votes. He said several "very useful" resolutions had been adopted.

On his forthcoming visit to refugee camps in the occupied territories and in Jordan, in early January, Mr. de Marco said the situation of the refugees was a humanitarian problem which should be given "much more political importance". The Assembly President said he also intended to visit other

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refugees who were the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) "precisely to highlight the plight of those persons" who needed most the support of the United Nations.

* * *

The General Assembly today observed the fortieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar told the Assembly that time and again, the solving of refugee problems had reduced political tensions and played a significant role in fostering peace. However, he said, there was presently a total of some 15 million refugees -- "a number so large as to shock the conscience of humanity".

Since the UNHCR was created, he said, solutions had been found for more than 20 million refugees world-wide. He reminded the Assembly that the Office had twice received the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1954 and in 1981, in recognition of this accomplishment.

Since 1951, no fewer than 107 States on all continents had signed the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said. As a result, those who fled their countries because of a well-founded fear of persecution now had a basic bill of rights that had acquired universal validity.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/790
17 December 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council to meet to consider draft on ways to protect Palestinians in occupied territories.

- Secretary-General deplores decision taken by Israeli authorities to deport four Palestinians from occupied territories.

- General Assembly acts on 52 texts on social and humanitarian issues.

- Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends appropriations for activities relating to least developed countries, anti-apartheid and energy.

* * *

The Security Council was scheduled to meet again tonight to continue its consideration of the question of Palestinian civilians' safety in the occupied territories.

Three times in the past 10 days -- on 8, 10 and 12 December -- the Council has met and voted to defer action, in order to allow informal consultations on a draft resolution to continue.

The vote on all three occasions was 9 in favour (Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, Romania, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire) to 4 against (Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia, Yemen -- the draft's sponsors), with 2 abstentions (China, France), as the Council accepted a Soviet motion to allow time for further informal consultations on the text.

That draft resolution (document S/21933/Rev.2) has been before the Council since 27 November and would have the Council, among other measures, consider "that the convening, at an appropriate time, of an international peace conference on the Middle East, properly structured, with the participation of the parties concerned, would facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace in the Middle East".

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For information media—not an official record

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today through his Spokesman that he deplored the decision taken by the Israeli authorities to deport four Palestinians from the occupied territories, an act which -- should it be carried out -- is in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention. He said it should be recalled that the Security Council had consistently opposed the deportation of Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories in 1988 and in 1989.

* * *

The General Assembly, acting on the recommendations of its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), last Friday adopted 51 resolutions and one decision covering issues of racial discrimination, social conditions, the regulation of computerized personal data, religious intolerance, torture, women's rights, crime control and refugee concerns.

It also marked the fortieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and called for additional ratifications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Eighteen texts on crime prevention and criminal justice were adopted without a vote. Thirteen of them were referred to the Assembly by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana from 27 August to 7 September. Those resolutions included a number of model treaties and administrative guidelines aimed at enhancing international co-operation in combating crime. In four additional resolutions, the Assembly welcomed the outcome of the Crime Congress, thanked Cuba for its role as host country, called for increased co-operation in criminal justice education and urged States to act to stem organized crime. By another text, it asked that possibilities for funding the African Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders be urgently explored.

Six resolutions were adopted by recorded votes. One text, on the consequences to human rights of assisting the regime in that country, called on Governments and organizations to maintain sanctions against South Africa "until the total dismantlement of the apartheid system". That action was taken by a vote of 120 in favour to 9 against (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States), with 22 abstentions. By another resolution, on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the Assembly called on all States to terminate the dealings of their transnational corporations with South Africa. The vote on that text was 120 in favour to 1 against (United States), with 30 abstentions. The Assembly also asked all concerned to contribute to the updating of a list of corporations doing business in South Africa.

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At its next meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, the Assembly expects to act on the remaining recommendations of the Third Committee and on draft resolutions on the question of apartheid and the critical economic situation in Africa.

* * *

Appropriations of $387,500 to implement the United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries were recommended Saturday afternoon by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). The appropriations would be used to allocate staff resources to the special programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The Committee also informed the Assembly that no new funds were needed to set up an ad hoc secretariat for preparing a convention on climate change.

Also on Saturday, the Committee approved a draft resolution raising the annual remuneration of the Secretary-General from $178,929 to $195,000, and increasing the pensionable remuneration of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by 5 per cent, to $163,960 each.

The Committee also took up the matter of the Organization's financial crisis, and heard introductory statements by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the cost of electoral assistance to Haiti and of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

On Friday, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be asked to provide business-class tickets to the Permanent Representatives of Member States travelling on official United Nations business.

By that draft decision, approved without a vote, the Secretary-General would be requested to review existing arrangements for air travel accommodations and to examine how airline discounts could provide savings as well as upgraded travel arrangements; to use discretion in respect of business-class travel on official United Nations business; and to include information on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions for first-class travel had been made.

During the Committee's debate on the standards for air travel, the Chairman read out a statement sent by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Margaret J. Anstee, who objected to the reference in the Secretary-General's report that she had travelled by Concorde at the expense of the Organization.

In addition, the Committee recommended salary increases for members of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the Chairman of the ACABQ, and recommended increasing the annual salary of judges on the International Court of Justice to $145,000.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/791
18 December 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly adopts resolutions on social questions; apartheid drafts introduced.

- Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached between Government of Ethiopia and Eritrean People's Liberation Front for reopening port of Massawa to United Nations shipments of emergency relief food to Ethiopia.

* * *

A new human rights convention aimed at protecting the rights of migrant workers was opened for signature and ratification by the General Assembly in one of 31 actions taken this afternoon at the recommendation of its Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

The remaining actions covered a broad range of issues, including United Nations electoral assistance, human rights in occupied Kuwait, the proclamation of 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples and the holding of a World Conference on Human Rights in 1993.

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, which had been in preparation since 1979, consists of 93 articles covering issues arising from the flows of migrant workers among States. It aims to promote action by States to prevent and eliminate clandestine movements and trafficking in such workers, while at the same time setting new international norms for protecting their rights and those of their families. A number of delegations have expressed reservations about problems that might arise from provisions concerning migrants' rights to take part in trade unions, receive social benefits, practise their religion and enjoy access to education and jobs on an equal basis with nationals of the receiving State.

In its other actions, the Assembly, by a recorded vote of 129 in favour to 8 against, with 9 abstentions, called for steps to find a suitable approach for providing United Nations assistance in Member States' elections. At the

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same time, a resolution stressing non-intervention in States' electoral system and respect for national sovereignty in such matters was adopted by a recorded vote of 111 in favour to 29 against, with 11 abstentions.

The Assembly called on the Commission on Human Rights to begin examining the human rights situation in occupied Kuwait, under a resolution adopted by a recorded vote of 144 in favour to 1 against (Iraq), with no abstentions. Before the vote, Iraq questioned the Assembly's competence to take action on a matter that was before the Security Council. However, the Acting President ruled that the Assembly had the competence to act on the proposal.

The Assembly proclaimed 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples under a resolution adopted by a recorded vote of 150 in favour to none against, with 4 abstentions.

In other action taken without a vote, the Assembly adopted three resolutions calling for increased international co-operation in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Acting on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly decided to hold a World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, called for assistance to refugees in six African countries and affirmed the need for non-selectivity in United Nations human rights activities. Other resolutions recommended by the Council covered early-warning systems on mass exoduses, efforts to end summary execution, the need for information on involuntary disappearances and regional arrangements for promoting human rights, as well as the human rights situations in Afghanistan, El Salvador and Iran.

The Assembly had been scheduled to act on eight draft resolutions on apartheid, one on the efficiency of the Organization's functioning in the economic and social fields and three on the critical economic situation in Africa. However, after hearing the apartheid drafts introduced, it decided not to vote on them or on the other remaining texts until its next meeting, at 10 a.m. on Friday, 21 December.

* * *

A United Nations official said today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar welcomed the agreement reached between the Government of Ethiopia and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front for reopening the port of Massawa to shipments of emergency relief food under the auspices of the United Nations.

The agreement, which will enable urgently needed humanitarian food aid to reach people in Eritrea and neighbouring areas affected by drought and civil strife, was announced today by the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome.

In a statement following the WFP announcement, the agency's Executive Director, James Ingram, called the reopening of the port "a major breakthrough" for the provision of such food aid to people in Eritrea affected by drought and civil strife.

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The first shipments of emergency food aid are expected to depart from Djibouti early in January 1991.

The port of Massawa has been closed since February. Since then, negotiations for the reopening of the port have been conducted by WFP at the request of the Secretary-General.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/792
19 December 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General proposes election of Sadako Ogata of Japan as new United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

- General Assembly adopts series of resolutions on apartheid, calling for international efforts for its eradication; resolutions on administrative and financial functioning of United Nations and Africa's critical economic situation also adopted.

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees deplores decision of Israeli authorities to resume deportations of Palestinians from occupied territory.

- Security Council to resume consultations tomorrow morning after suspension of brief meeting on safety of Palestinian civilians in occupied territories.

- Assistant Secretary-General in Department of International Economic and Social Affairs says Gulf crisis created serious shock to world economy, although it was not the principal cause of 1990 slowdown.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today submitted to the General Assembly a proposal for the election of Sadako Ogata of Japan as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for a period of three years beginning on 1 January.

A professor in political science, Mrs. Ogata has been dean of the faculty of foreign studies at Sophia University in Tokyo since 1989 and Director of the Institute of International Relations at the same university. She is at present the "independent expert" of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for the human rights situation in Myanmar. From 1982-1985, she was the representative of Japan on the Human Rights Commission. Earlier, for two years, she was Chairman of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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Mrs. Ogata was also a delegate of Japan to a number of sessions of the General Assembly from 1968 to 1978.

* * *

The General Assembly this afternoon adopted a series of resolutions relating to the policies of apartheid of South Africa.

By a resolution on the oil embargo against South Africa, the Assembly commended to the attention of States the model law for the effective enforcement of that embargo as proposed in the report of the Intergovernmental Group which monitors the oil embargo. The Security Council was urged to take action under the Charter to ensure an effective embargo on the supply and shipping of oil and petroleum products to South Africa.

In a resolution on recent developments in South Africa, the Assembly expressed full support for the efforts of the South African people to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the problems in their country. It called on the South African authorities to continue their efforts to foster a climate conducive to negotiations and free political activity, in particular by repealing the repressive provisions of the Internal Security Act, ending detentions without trial and releasing all remaining political prisoners. The Assembly also called for an immediate end to violence, attributing the violence largely to the continued existence of apartheid policies, practices and structures.

A resolution on the arms embargo against South Africa strongly deplored the actions of countries which directly or indirectly violated that embargo and called on them to "terminate forthwith such hostile acts". It called for strict national legislation relating to the implementation of the embargo, and for the prohibition of the supply of all products -- in particular, computers and communications equipment, technological skills and services, including military intelligence -- that could be used for South Africa's military and nuclear industries.

The Security Council was urged to consider immediate steps to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of violations.

Another resolution dealt with relations between South Africa and Israel. The Assembly condemned military and nuclear collaboration between the two States and urged the Security Council to take appropriate measures against Israel for violating the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa.

Also this afternoon the Assembly adopted resolutions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nation and on Africa's critical economic situation.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has deplored the decision of the Israeli authorities to resume the policy of expelling Palestinians from the occupied territory.

Four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, including a registered refugee from Jabalia camp, were given deportation orders by the Israeli authorities on 15 December.

In a statement today, UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli regretted that the authorities had resumed the policy of deportation, which had been suspended 16 months ago due to international criticism.

"As a humanitarian agency concerned with the welfare of the Palestinians living under occupation, we can only deplore this policy of expelling people from their homes", Mr. Giacomelli said.

* * *

The Security Council met briefly this morning to continue its consideration of the safety of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories, but immediately suspended for consultations. The proposal for suspension was approved by 9 votes in favour (Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, Romania, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States, Zaire) to 6 against (China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Malaysia, Yemen) to suspend.

The United Kingdom proposed the suspension to enable the Council to consider consensus texts being prepared by Finland. In a brief statement, the representative of Finland said achievement of consensus was near both on a draft resolution and a proposed statement by the Council President.

Following consultations, which lasted about an hour, it was announced that there would be further consultations tomorrow morning, to be followed by a formal meeting of the Council.

* * *

The Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), P. Goran Ohlin, today briefed news correspondents on a recent study by the Department on the world economy at the end of 1990.

According to the report, he said, last year was one of tremendous political drama, but there was little change in the economic field. This year, however, the economic fallout of the political changes had begun to register, and it had indeed been a year of "enormous and dramatic economic change", he said.

While the oil shortage and the current crisis in the Persian Gulf had contributed to the drastic slowdown of the world economy, this explained only in small part the overall decline in world output, Mr. Ohlin said. The slowdown had been affected far more by the Eastern European and Soviet

"disarray", and the slowing down of the Chinese economy. The impact on specific developing countries had been great, particularly as a result of the changing price in oil and also in terms of trade; several heavily indebted developing countries had been gravely burdened as a result of the Gulf situation.

Yet another contributing factor to the growing paralysis of the world's economy, said Mr. Ohlin, had been financial stringency in the industrialized world. There was little hope for any change in next year's international economic scene, and recession was expected to deepen.

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